PERIODICAL DEPT.

Gas Journal

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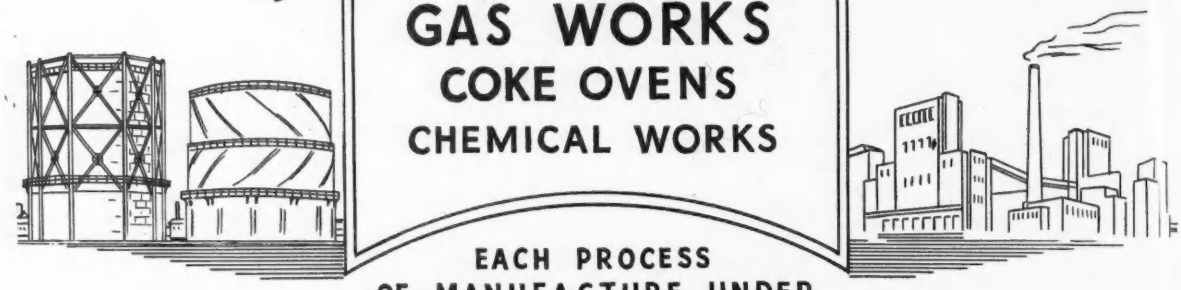

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COKE OVENS
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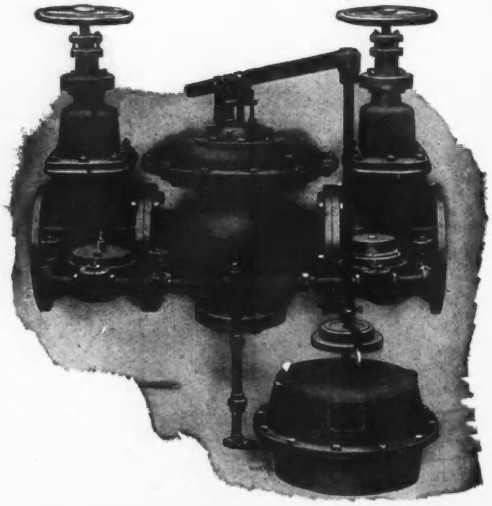

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Absolute certainty of action under all conditions.

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THE BRYAN DONKIN CO. LTD., CHESTERFIELD

REPRINTED FROM

THE TIMES

Tuesday August 29 1950

LONDON PRINTING STRIKE THREAT

DISMISSAL ADVICE TO EMPLOYERS

WARNING BY UNION

FROM OUR LABOUR REPORTER

There is a danger that most London printing establishments, other than national newspaper offices, may be forced to close down this week by a dispute which has arisen between the London Master Printers' Association and the London Society of Compositors. This would stop the publication in London of most periodicals, suburban weekly newspapers, timetables, catalogues, public notices and professional reports, and the execution of private printing orders. Some Government publications other than White Papers would not appear.

The L.M.P.A. announced yesterday that printing of this kind had been brought to the verge of a standstill in the last few days by the action of the L.S.C. in instructing its members to introduce "crippling" restrictive practices which, if enforced, would be in breach of established conditions of employment in the London trade.

Members of the L.M.P.A. had therefore been advised to seek an assurance from all L.S.C. employees that they would work in accordance with conditions which by agreement or custom formed part of their individual contracts of service. Men who refused to give such assurances should be dismissed summarily for breach of contract. The time-limit set for the employees to give their assurance is noon tomorrow.

NO ASSURANCES

Mr. R. Willis, general secretary of the L.S.C., yesterday instructed members of the union not to give the assurances requested by their employers and warned the Ministry of Labour that, if the L.M.P.A. proceeded with what the L.S.C. would regard as a lock-out contrary to the provisions of the Conditions of Employment and National Arbitration Order, the L.S.C. would feel free to call a strike. The union's view is that if the Ministry allows the employers to infringe an order prohibiting strikes and lock-outs, the workers are at liberty to ignore it also. The employers, who have taken counsel's opinion, consider that their proposed action would not constitute a lock-out because it would be to enforce a return to normal practices, not to enforce the acceptance of new working conditions.

The L.S.C. instructions to members state that in any establishment where a man is dismissed under the employers' plan, all L.S.C. members must strike. It is understood that if this happens in a substantial number of establishments, the union will call a strike of all members in L.M.P.A. offices. A reply from the Ministry of Labour to the L.S.C. is expected to-day.

The dispute arose last year when the L.S.C. claimed that wage increases to members of the Typographical Association, the union with membership among printing workers outside London, had upset the differential between rates in London and elsewhere. An increase of 9s. 9d. a week would restore the relationship. The claim was formally submitted in April, 1950, but no progress was made and it was withdrawn in May. The L.S.C. then imposed a ban on overtime work in L.M.P.A. offices, which affected about 5,000 of its 10,000 members and has lasted ever since.

OVERTIME FACTOR

The L.M.P.A. referred the dispute to the Minister of Labour, and the National Arbitration Tribunal awarded a wage increase of 3s. 6d. a week, to become effective when the overtime ban was lifted. The two sides have subsequently had informal talks about the resumption of negotiations, but the L.M.P.A. will not meet the L.S.C. unless the overtime

ban is lifted and the L.S.C. wishes to maintain it until the employers' attitude to the negotiations is apparent.

It is understood that the main grievance of the L.S.C. is that the L.M.P.A. will not consider its claims on any matter on their merits, but refers always to the possible reactions of other unions in the printing industry. The L.S.C. wishes to be assured that, in any future negotiations, its proposals will be discussed without relation to the rest of the industry. The main proposals which the L.S.C. would put forward in this event are for a stabilized minimum wage rate of £8 a week, and for concessions by the union to allow higher production in the industry, either by introduction of more labour or by increasing productivity. The proposed £8 minimum, according to the L.S.C., is below the rate now paid in most London offices when merit money and other financial inducements are taken into account. It is £1 above the present agreed minimum.

" WORK AFFECTED "

The L.M.P.A. reports that since last Thursday members of the L.S.C. have introduced restrictive practices which are already seriously affecting the work in their members' offices, as well as the continued overtime ban. L.S.C. members, for example, have been instructed by their leaders to move only one piece of copy at a time, and all type-matter arriving in an office already set must be proved to have been set originally in an office manned by L.S.C. members or else reset throughout. Members of the employers' association have been advised to prepare to give notice to employees in other unions if L.S.C. men are dismissed or cease work. Correctors, machine men, binders, and others will be progressively affected if no compositors are at work. About 15,000 members of other unions would probably be involved.

It is believed that the L.S.C. is determined to continue the struggle as long as necessary to achieve its aims, and notice may be given to extend the dispute to members in national newspaper offices if it is thought desirable. Members in newspaper establishments are already contributing voluntarily to a fund for the benefit of those losing by the overtime ban. The L.S.C. denies that its instructions to members on restrictive practices are in breach of any agreement with the employers.

Printed by The Times Publishing Company, Limited, Printing House Square, London, E.C.4, England.

LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT - 6 p.m., Tuesday, Sept.5.

COLONEL W. MONCRIEFF CARR, C.B.E., T.D., has tendered his resignation as Chairman of the North Western Gas Board to the Minister of Fuel and Power on the ground of ill health. The Minister has accepted Colonel Carr's resignation with regret and it will take effect from Oct.31.

To succeed Colonel Carr as Chairman of the North Western Gas Board the Minister has appointed MR. D.P. WELMAN, part-time member of the Board and at present Managing Director of Foster, Yates, and Thom, Ltd., heavy precision engineers, Blackburn.

Mr. Welman, aged 48, is a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. During the war he held important posts under the Ministry of Aircraft Production, and since 1946 he has been Chairman of the Blackburn District Committee of the Regional Board for Industry. He was appointed a member of the North Western Gas Board last year.

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Gas Journal

EMERGENCY
No 4553
SEPT. 6 1950

EDITORIAL NOTES.

This is your 'GAS JOURNAL' for Sept.6, 1950; and it is probable that the great majority of our subscribers will welcome it as an effort to keep the flag flying in face of the wrecking element in an industry which manifestly needs overhauling from top to toe. For some fifteen weeks now, we - who thankfully are neither master printers nor printing tradesmen - have struggled by delicate ruse and devious means to give service to our customers; now we have passed from the role of stooge into the flattering highlight of victim. Like the London Master Printers' Association, we can state that in Act 3 of the farce we are no longer in control of our business. The leading London and Provincial dailies have given the public the official statements and some comments on the situation, which has developed much according to the pattern of all industrial disputes; and as we go to Gestetner for this emergency broadsheet, deadlock reigns.

The Future?

We cannot predict the effect of Government intervention, which has been all too long delayed; we do know that in present circumstances it would be well nigh impossible to find a printer outside London who could tackle our normal weekly issue. Meanwhile it is with great satisfaction that we announce that some weeks ago steps were taken to supplement the attentuated text ration by a Walter King Publication for which we are reviving the title 'GAS'. The first issue is due on Sept.15, and it will contain 24pp. of valuable technical material, much of which has not yet been made available to the industry as a whole. The second issue, a fortnight later, will consist largely of the addresses and papers to be presented at the forthcoming Irish and Scottish meetings.

Cover Note.

The cover for Sept.6 was already printed. We trust the advertisers will forgive the meagre body which breathes within their shining armour.

PERSONAL

Mr. NORMAN KIRKUP, for many years Sales Superintendent of David Grant & Co., Ltd., gas meter manufacturers, Edinburgh, has been engaged in a similar capacity by Autocontrol Boilers, Ltd., London, makers of 'Vesta' and 'Vertex' gas fired boilers.

Mr. L.W.DUNN, of Abbott Birks & Co., Ltd., is well on the way to recovery following a serious operation in a London hospital.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Mr. E. MARIS, 593 London Road, Sheffield 2, writes (Aug.27);-

In your issue of Aug. 23 you published a letter by 'Onlooker' headed

'Odious Comparison'. To-day I have witnessed what I think may be termed odious practice in the display, by the Yorkshire Electricity Board at the Sheffield show, of a 1½ gal. electric storage water heater delivering really hot water at a rate of about 4 gal./min. The heater was advertised as giving hot water, when and where it was wanted, without dirt or fumes. Judging by remarks from onlookers it was evident that the majority were completely hoodwinked by this unfair display. What an opportunity it presented for the display of a gas heated sink water heater delivering hot water constantly, and actually heated by the appliance. Maybe this will form part of future shows and maybe the public will be allowed to operate the control taps?

'HONESTY' (Aug.28) writes:-

'Onlooker' in his letter in your issue of Aug.23 asks 'What exactly is this seven day test made by the Good Housekeeping Institute at the request of the Gas and Electricity Boards'? (quoted by the Electrical Development Association). I should like to ask 'What is the Electrical Development Association'? In my opinion it is high time for an investigation to be made into the activities and costs of the many hangers-on in the fuel industries. The community has to maintain the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the three nationalised creations - Coal Board, British Electricity Authority, and Gas Council. For the good of the community abolish the many other obscurities battening on the fuel industries! They should certainly not be allowed to continue their meddlesome ways, using titles other than those of the statutory fuel bodies under whose aegis they operate. I suggest that here is a worth-while investigation for the Consumers' Councils to undertake.'

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Centenary Celebration.

Over 800 employees of W.C.Holmes & Co., Ltd., and their wives were guests of the firm at Blackpool on Aug.25 in celebration of the firm's centenary. During lunch Mr. D.M.Henshaw, Chairman of the Company, presented two certificates for 40 years' service, and at tea Mr. F.B.Holmes, grandson of the founder of the firm and Joint Managing Director, referred to the family spirit which had been, and remains, the keynote of Holmes' activities.

Gas in Ireland.

Yesterday the Irish Association of Gas Managers held their annual meeting at Limerick under the Presidency of Mr. F.K.Thomas, Limerick City Gas Engineer. In his address Mr. Thomas said that in the past in Ireland too much stress had been laid on gas production as such at the works and far too little emphasis on what happened to the gas when it reached the burners at the consumers' end. In general, he asserted, distribution systems were obsolete and inadequate, and negligible attention had been paid to the problems of peak load. These proble had been allowed to build up without attempt at their solution. In spite of incre coal costs gas was a necessity which could still be sold in pennyworths and as suc was attractive to the lower income groups. And as for oil, though the present ten ency was to favour oil firing in industry because of unhappy memories of gas ratio ing in the war years, in any future emergency there would be far greater likelihoo

of oil fuel disappearing rather than failure of gas supply.

North-Eastern Warning.

At a meeting of the North-Eastern Gas Consultative Council in Leeds last week Dr.R.S.Edwards, Chairman of the North-Eastern Gas Board, gave a warning that, though the board did not propose to increase the price of gas, there now existed no margin capable of meeting any further substantial rise in costs. A surplus of £250,000 accumulated by the board following last year's increase in tariffs has been entirely absorbed by increased costs.

British Association.

On Saturday last, Sept.2, Sir Harold Hartley, K.C.V.O., F.R.S., President of the British Association for the advancement of Science, officially opened the Central and Research Laboratories at the Nechells gasworks, Birmingham, of the West Midlands Gas Board. The laboratories are the outcome of continuous development since 1892, when Dr.H.G.Colman was appointed by the Birmingham Gas Department to take charge of chemical testing and to combine his work with research. The story of this development is of the greatest interest and the results achieved constitute an example of the success of continuity of purpose over the years. In the laboratories, now combined and completed, well equipped not only for intricate analytical work but for thorough-going research, the West Midlands Gas Board has inherited a most valuable asset.

Closed Cycle Gas Turbine.

The West Midlands Gas Board has ordered a pioneer plant, incorporating a new system of waste heat recovery developed by Spencer-Bonecourt, Ltd. It will operate in conjunction with an installation of Glover-West continuous vertical retorts. A model of this unit as it will appear in completed form is being shown in the gas section of the exhibition 'Energy in the Service of Man' in connection with the meeting of the British Association in Birmingham. The Gas Council, in co-operation with the West Midlands Gas Board, has been responsible for the gas section of the exhibition, which is being staged at Birmingham University. The gas turbine unit of the new plant is being built by John Brown & Co., Ltd., and the entire installation is co-ordinated with the carbonising unit. West's Gas Improvement Company, Ltd., are the main contractors.

New Factory.

A new factory is to be built in the development area of Speke, Liverpool, by Automotive Products Company, Ltd., which, among other companies, incorporates the Lockheed Industrial Hydraulic Division. The new factory, scheduled to come into operation late 1951 or early 1952 will employ 1,500 and will have a floor space of more than 200,000 sq.ft.

Industrial Finishes Exhibition.

The technical, commercial, and artistic aspects of the finishing industries are combined at Earls Court in the Industrial Finishes Exhibition (Aug.30 - Sept.7).

Among the exhibitors of interest to the gas industry are: F.J.Ballard & Co. Ltd., showing a standard type conveyor convection enamelling oven; Thomas De La Rue & Co., Ltd., (Potterton Gas Division), showing a full size infra-red oven unit;

and Parkinson & Cowan (Gas Meters), Ltd., showing two 2-ft diameter infra-red tunnel units and a small installation of six panel-type units. Others include Jenolite, Ltd., and Keith Blackman, Ltd.

'G.J.' GESTETNER LATEST.

Death of Mr. Dean Chandler.

With great regret we record the death of Mr. Dean Chandler at his home at Myatts Park, London, S.E.5, on Sept.2. Having undergone a major operation at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, he had recovered sufficiently to return home for convalescence, but he suffered a relapse which defied expert medical attention and devoted nursing on the part of his wife. Mr. Dean Chandler - 'Dean' to his intimate friends - entered the service of the former South Metropolitan Gas Company in 1900 under Mr.A.T.Browne at the Vauxhall works. Seven years later he was transferred to Old Kent Road, where he worked under Dr. Charles Carpenter, then Chief Engineer. He was responsible for a detailed investigation which led to improvements in the Old Kent Road works producer system and the retort bench efficiency, including the introduction of the Chandler coke chute. In 1910 he was deputed to put into practical operation Dr. Carpenter's ideas for the simplification and standardisation of gas fittings and domestic lighting and heating appliances. A physical laboratory was set up and within a year or two 'Metro' equipment was available on the district. An elaborate system of limit gauging was established to ensure that all component parts were interchangeable.

During the first world war he had charge of the many industrial gas problems that arose in South London, and on the formation of the Industrial Gas Centres he was called upon to take charge of the South Metropolitan Centre. In 1932, again on the instructions of Dr. Carpenter, he collaborated with the late Dr. Bernard Friedman in adapting the Junkers gas water heater to the practical requirements of South London. Between the two wars Mr.Chandler was associated with improvements in public lighting, and he compiled a 'History of Lighting by Gas' published by Walter King, Ltd. More recently he was responsible for the development and application of the 'neat' gas principle. He retired in January 1948, but continued to serve the Industry, being particularly interested in the work of the Gas Gallery project for the Science Museum at South Kensington. With the collaboration of Mr. A. Douglas Lacey he contributed one of the main historical articles to the Centenary Number of the "Gas Journal" last year.

South Eastern Gas Prices.

The South Eastern Gas Board has announced increased gas prices to come into force after Sept.15. Flat rate increases will vary from 0.3d. to 1d a therm, and in some districts there will be no increase. It is estimated that the increases will cost the average consumer 2d. per week.

Fuel Crisis Warning.

Mr. A. Robens, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Fuel and Power, stated on Sept.2 that by the end of the summer, eight weeks hence, we must have 16.5 mill.tons of stock in stock or face a fuel crisis. On Aug.19 stocks were only 12.8 mill.tons. Coal used by industry, gas, electricity, and the like in 1949 was about 34 mill.tons more than in 1938. So far this year total output, including opencast coal, has been only 2 mill.tons more than for the same period of 1949.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS - Appointments Vacant.

NORTH WESTERN GAS BOARD (Oldham-Rochdale Group), Oldham Undertaking, ASSISTANT CHEMIST. Applications are invited for the above position. Candidates must have sound training in Applied Chemistry and preferably hold a University degree in Chemistry or its equivalent. The salary for the position will be within the range £380 per annum to £420 per annum, and the commencing salary will be in accordance with the successful applicant's age, qualifications and experience. The successful applicant may be required to pass a medical examination and to subscribe to such scheme of superannuation as may be adopted in the future. Applications endorsed "Assistant Chemist" and giving particulars of training, qualifications, and experience should be accompanied by copies of two recent testimonials and reach the undersigned not later than twelve days after publication of this advertisement. Cecil H. Bamber, General Manager, North Western Gas Board, Oldham-Rochdale Group, Gas Offices, Dane Street, Rochdale, August 21, 1950.

EAST MIDLANDS GAS BOARD. Notts and Derby Division, Chesterfield Sub-Division, Mansfield Undertaking, SHOWROOM ASSISTANT. Applications are invited for the appointment of Showroom Assistant at a salary rising to £400 per annum according to qualifications and experience. Applicants should have practical experience of gas appliances and be able to advise consumers on their correct use. The appointment will be subject to such superannuation scheme as may be adopted by the Board and the successful applicant may be required to pass a medical examination. Applications, stating age, qualifications and giving full details of experience, together with the names of two referees must reach the undersigned not later than Sept.18, 1950. H.L. Pearce, Divisional General Manager, Friar Gate, Derby, August 25, 1950.

NORTH THAMES GAS BOARD. LABORATORY ASSISTANTS, 21 to 25 years of age are required in the Board's Laboratories at Ascot and High Wycombe in the Provincial Area, and at Lea Bridge, Hornsey, Poplar, Romford, Beckton, and Fulham in the Metropolitan Area. Candidates should have matriculated or obtained exemption therefrom, or hold Inter-B.Sc. Qualification. The starting salary range is from £265 per annum to £325 per annum in the Provincial Area, and from £295 per annum to £355 per annum in the Metropolitan Area, paid on a weekly basis according to age, qualifications and experience. Applications, stating age and giving full particulars should be addressed to the Staff Controller, North Thames Gas Board, 30 Kensington Church Street, London, W.8., quoting reference number 9854.

THREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS Aged 25-35 required by a group of British Gas Companies in Brazil. One GAS ENGINEER required with experience in the installation and control of plant used in gas manufacture, continuous and intermittent vertical retorts, C.W.G. and horizontal retorts and the like. Candidates should preferably hold higher grade certificate of the Institution of Gas Engineers in Gas Engineering (Manufacture). One GAS ENGINEER required with comprehensive training and experience in gas distribution practice. Candidates should preferably hold higher grade certificate of the Institution of Gas Engineers in Gas Engineering (Supply). Salary will depend upon qualifications and experience and will be in line with present day living costs; 3-year agreement subject

Appointments Vacant (continued).

WALES GAS BOARD, Pontypool Undertaking, SHIFT SUPERINTENDENT. Applications are invited for the position of Shift Superintendent at the above Undertaking. Candidates should preferably have had experience on Woodall-Duckham Continuous Vertical Retorts, and should have had technical training in all gasworks ancillary plant and equipment. The salary will be £450 per annum rising by three annual increments to £495 per annum, plus housing accommodation, rent free, which will be provided by the Undertaking. Applications stating age, qualifications and experience with two recent testimonials, should be posted to the undersigned within ten days of the appearance of this advertisement. J. Powdrill, General Manager, Wales Gas Board, Pontypool Undertaking, Pontypool, Mon.

RESEARCH KITCHEN DEMONSTRATOR. Applications are invited for a position with a leading firm of Gas Cooker Manufacturers in the Birmingham Area. The position is for a lady who has had considerable experience in Cooking and who must possess a flair for compiling and testing new recipes. The work will also involve some demonstrating to outside Organisations. The successful applicant should hold a recognised Diploma in Domestic Science or equivalent qualifications. Applications marked 'T.R.31/9' giving full details of age, experience and salary required to No.9927, 'Gas Journal', 11 Bolt Court, Fleet Street, E.C.4.

RADIATION LTD invite applications for senior and junior STAFF APPOINTMENTS in their Central Research Laboratories. Honours graduates in physics, physical chemistry and fuel technology preferably, but not necessarily, with previous research experience, will be considered. The posts are pensionable and salary will depend upon qualifications and experience. Specialists in the fields of heat transfer, combustion, and fluid flow would be particularly eligible for the senior posts. Age should not exceed 35. Applications should be addressed to the Research Manager, Radiation Ltd., Central Laboratory, Radiation House, Thimble Mill Lane, Aston, Birmingham 6.

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Work in progress

LEICESTER
AYLESTONE ROAD
A view of the Non-Producer side of the Glover-West Vertical Retort House, showing the installation of the Waste Heat Boilers.

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IMPROVEMENT CO., LTD.
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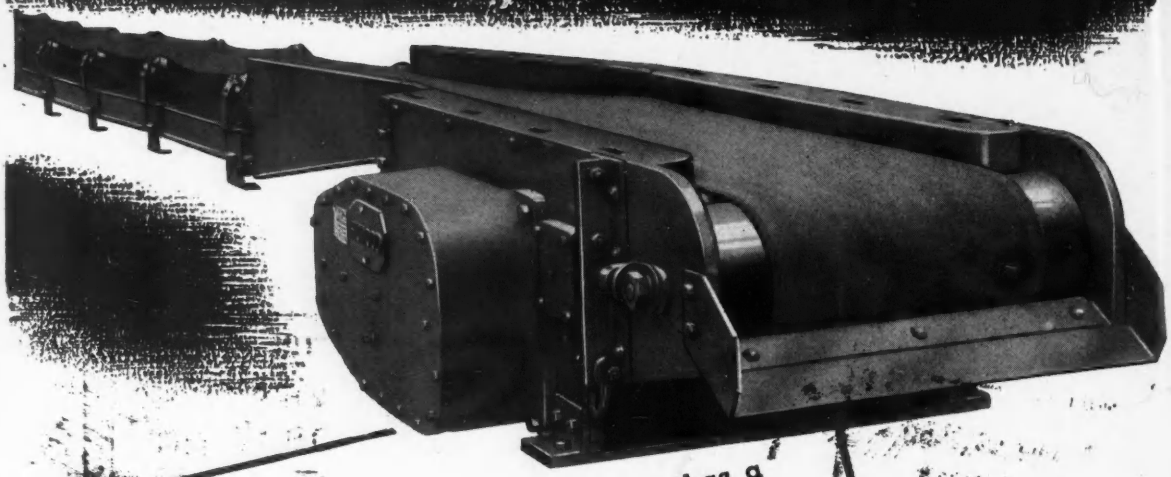
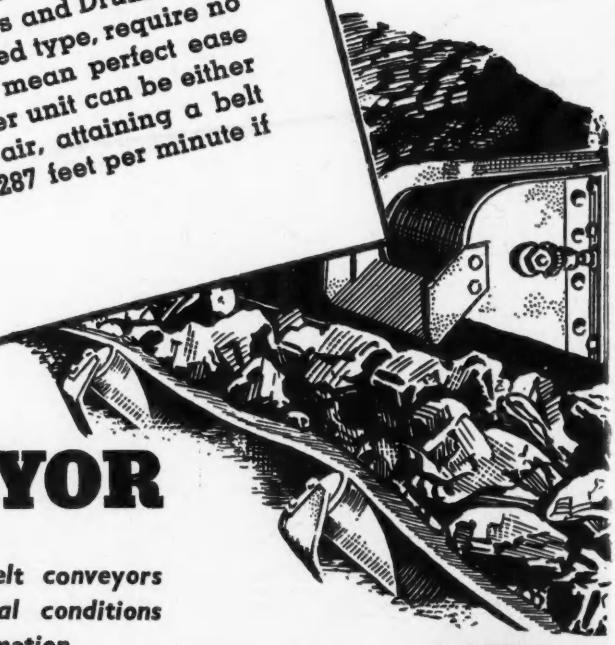


This light and powerful conveyor has a capacity out of all proportion to its weight, making it ideal for thin seams. It is available in the belt widths of 20", 24", and 26". All the Idler Rollers and Drums used are of the patent oil-filled type, require no other lubrication and mean perfect ease in running. The power unit can be either A.C. or compressed air, attaining a belt speed of as high as 287 feet per minute if required.



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